

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 SS-15 SP-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 HUD-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 COME-00

/053 W

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R 020239Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9369

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6243

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PINR, ECON, AF

SUBJECT: CALL ON MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS RAFIE

1. I CALLED ON MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS MAJOR MOHAMMAD RAFIE ON JULY 31. I WAS GREETED IN HIS OUTER OFFICE BY A MINI-HONOR GUARD OF THREE ARMED SOLDIERS AND AN ATTRACTIVE RECEPTIONIST (FEMALE WORKERS ARE A RARITY IN AFGHANISTAN). RAFIE WAS IN SHIRT SLEEVES. OUR TALK WAS THROUGH AN INTERPRETER, AS THE MINISTER APPARENTLY SPEAKS ONLY A FEW WORDS OF ENGLISH.

2. I INQUIRED ABOUT THE PRIORITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN NOW UNDER PREPARATION. THE MINISTER SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE MAJOR PRIORITY WAS PUBLIC HOUSING AND SAID HE WOULD WELCOME U.S. ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD. I EXPLAINED TO HIM OUR ASSISTANCE GOALS IN THIS COUNTRY AND STATED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES WAS NO LONGER FINANCING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS WITH HIS MINISTRY POSSIBLE AREAS IN WHICH THE U.S. COULD OFFER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

3. I ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE AFGHAN RAILWAY PROJECT, ORIGINALLY ENVISIONED TO BE CONSTRUCTED WITH IRANIAN ASSISTANCE, AND THE HELMAND VALLEY  
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HIGHWAY PROJECT OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. THE MINISTER SAID THAT BOTH PROJECTS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET MADE A DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO IMPLEMENT THEM.

4. COMMENT: MAJOR RAFIE IS IN HIS EARLY 30'S, AN IMPASSIVE, RESERVED, FORMER TANK COMMANDER, WHO,

AFTER HE GAVE ME A FRIENDLY GREETING, WAS SLIGHTLY  
UNCOMFORTABLE DURING THE CALL. WHEN I ASKED THE  
MINISTER WHERE HE WAS FROM, HE REPLIED THAT HE WAS  
AN AFGHAN FROM AFGHANISTAN AND THAT THE OLD ETHNIC  
GROUPS THAT DIVIDED AFGHANISTAN NO LONGER EXIST.  
HE THEN ADDED THAT HE WAS BORN IN PAGHMAN.  
DUBS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, PUBLIC UTILITIES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978KABUL06243  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, PINR, ECON, AF, (RAFIE, MOHAMMAD), (DUBS, ADOLPH)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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